

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An isolated and purified peptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) peptides Peptides having the sequence (I)

$R_N$  - Ala Arg Ala Lys Lys Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met-  $R_C$  (I) (SEQ  
ID No. 2)

or

b) derivatives of said peptides, ~~peptide derivatives thereof~~, wherein

$R_N$  represents -H or an amino protective group, or a substituted or unsubstituted amino group; or at least one further amino acid outside the peptide or peptide derivative;

$R_C$  represents -OH or a carboxy protective group, or a carboxyl group or an ester or amide thereof, or at least one further amino acid outside the peptide or peptide derivative;

wherein said peptide derivatives have a deletion, insertion or substitution of one, two or three amino acids of sequence (I), or sequence (I) is truncated to nine contiguous amino acids the deletion being an N-terminal and/or C-terminal deletion; and

said peptide derivatives essentially have the functionality of the of peptide of sequence (I) or of one of the following peptides:

~~Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met (SEQ ID No. 9)~~

~~Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr (SEQ ID No. 10)~~

~~Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met or (SEQ ID No. 14)~~

~~Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met (SEQ ID No. 14);~~

~~(each of the above sequences — reference sequence);~~

~~i.e., to induce the production of interferon  $\gamma$  or TNF- $\alpha$  in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, especially from subjects immunized with HCMV and having the appropriate HLA type.~~

wherein said peptide has the ability to induce the production of interferon- $\gamma$  or TNF- $\alpha$  in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells.

2. (Currently amended) The peptides or peptide derivatives according to claim 1

having the sequence

R<sub>N</sub> - Ala Arg Ala Lys Lys Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met- R<sub>C</sub> (SEQ ID No. 2)

R<sub>N</sub> - Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met- R<sub>C</sub> (SEQ ID No. 3)

R<sub>N</sub> - Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met- R<sub>C</sub> (SEQ ID No. 9)

R<sub>N</sub> - Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr - R<sub>C</sub> (SEQ ID No. 10) or

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$R_N$  - Asp Glu Leu Arg Arg Lys Met Met Tyr Met -  $R_C$  (SEQ ID No. 14).

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn)

5. (Withdrawn)

6. (Withdrawn)

7. (Original) The peptides or peptide derivatives according to claim 1, wherein  $R_N$  represents -H or an amino protective group and  $R_C$  represents -OH or a carboxyl protective group.

8. (Original) The peptides or peptide derivatives according to claim 7, wherein  $R_N$  represents -H or an acyl group and  $R_C$  represents -OH or an amino group.

9. (Original) The peptides or peptide derivatives according to claim 8, wherein  $R_N$  represents -H and  $R_C$  represents -OH.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) Method for identifying a response of the cellular immune system against HCMV, said method comprising:

- a) incubating T-cells with a peptide or peptide derivative according to claim 1; and
- b) detecting whether incubation has resulted in the production of interferon- $\gamma$  or TNF- $\alpha$  in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells by comparing the production of T-cells in step b) with results obtained when performing the method without incubation.

13. (Currently amended) Method for quantifying a response of the cellular immune system against HCMV, said method comprising:

- a) incubating T-cells with a peptide or peptide derivative according to claim 1;
- b) detecting ~~whether~~ the number of T cells that have been induced to produce interferon- $\gamma$  or TNF- $\alpha$  in CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells, and comparing the number of induced T cells observed in step b) with results obtained when performing the method with a non-inducing peptide.

14. (Previously presented) An isolated or purified DNA which codes for a peptide or peptide derivative according to claim 1.

15. (Previously presented) A plasmid or vector comprising a DNA according to claim

14.

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16. (Canceled)